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WAR NEWS.

"A PROTRACTED WAR."

SIR JOHN FRENCH ON HIS MEANINGS.

In reply to a correspondent who asked Sir John French his interpretation of the meaning of the term "a protracted war" (used in an interview which has appeared in a number of French and English newspapers), the Field-Marshal states:—"The protraction of the war depends entirely upon the supply of men and munitions. Should these be unsatisfactory, the war will be accordingly prolonged. I direct emphatically on the need for munitions in the interview to which you refer."

SIKHS FROM TSINGTAU.

PUBLIC BANQUET IN KARACHI.

The 26th Sikhs last month arrived in Karachi from the Far East, where they took part with the Anglo-Japanese force in the final attack upon Tsingtau and were present at the fall and surrender of the German garrison there. The leading citizens of Karachi, European and Indian, combined to entertain the men of the regiment to a congratulatory banquet arranged through the medium of the local Singh Sabha. Later in the day the Commissioner in Sind entertained the European and Indian officers of the regiment at a garden party at Government House, at which the principal official and non-official members of the various communities were present. The regiment leaves at once for its station in the Punjab.

GUNS OF THE "PRINZ EITEL."

EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY ARMAMENT.

Some comment has been aroused by the statement attributed to the officers of the *Prinz Eitel Friedrich* that the inability of the ship to obtain fresh ammunition for her six guns was one of the causes which led to her internment.

It is believed that the vessel carried four six-inch guns and six four-inch guns. With the exception of the merchant cruiser *Zephrus*, which is armed with six guns, none of the German cruisers in the outer seas carried any guns larger than 4-in. The armament of the *Prinz Eitel Friedrich* appears to have been exceptionally heavy for a ship of her class.

The vessel was engaged in the Far Eastern service of the Norddeutscher Lloyd at the outbreak of war, and the *Times* says she must clearly have been specially designed for the carriage of heavy guns. Yet the tendency of the German shipping lines before the war was to deprecate the suggestion that their vessels might become useful fighting units.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BELGIUM.

The German Socialist organ *Vorwärts*, in an article on Belgium, presents the economic situation in Belgium as good. It says that German newspaper reporters are content to record that the Brussels cafes are full, and that the people in the street do not look miserable, whereas the mere examination of statistics would show that the number of Belgian citizens who can get food only from the relief committees is not decreasing, but increasing. The number was 16 per cent. of the population in September, nearly 24 per cent. in November, nearly 36 per cent. at the end of February, and 33 per cent. at the end of March. The position in the provinces is stated by the *Vorwärts* to be even worse, and it is pointed out that it is impossible for trade to recover, or for life to become normal, while the military occupation puts all sorts of restrictions and difficulties in the way. It is added that the inaccurate German newspaper reports do not deceive anybody, and in neutral countries have the same effect as the rest of the "German propaganda."

ARREST OF SUSPECTED SPIES.

INVISIBLE INK MESSAGES.

Upon the charge of communicating naval and military information to the enemy by writing in invisible ink to various addresses on the Continent, three alleged spies were recently arrested in England by the authorities. The names of the men are Kuepfert, Muller, and Hahn.

It is stated that Kuepfert came to this country from America. Observation was kept upon his movements from the date of his arrival, and he was traced from Dublin, where he first called, to Liverpool and London. He said he was going from Dublin to New York, and Liverpool, but, as the result of the close watch that was kept upon his movements, he was arrested in a London hotel. Here he was awaiting the renewal of the cross-Channel services, which had been interrupted on account of the activity of German submarines.

Muller, who claims to be a British subject born of naturalized German parents, and Hahn, who is said to be a German, were arrested shortly after the apprehension of Kuepfert, with whom they are believed to have been acting in concert. It is alleged that all three men employed similar methods in their work.

The case, which is regarded as one of grave importance, first occupied the attention of the military authorities, but it has now been decided that the three men shall be tried in the civil courts under the Defence of the Realm Regulations as amended by Parliament. It is of the utmost importance that knowledge of methods adopted to defeat the aims of German espionage should be withheld from the enemy, and it is therefore highly probable that the trial will be conducted in camera. This course is permitted by the Defence of the Realm Regulations, under which the accused men have been arrested. A definite date has not yet been fixed for the trial, which it is expected, will be conducted by the Lord Chief Justice at the next sitting of the High Court.

BERLIN GOLF CLUB MONEY.

SEIZED FOR WAR LOAN.

Some of us have been trading with the enemy, writes Mr. E. W. Wills, late Berlin correspondent of the *Daily Mail*. Not directly or intentionally, but trading all the same. We have been investing in German War Loans. This is the story of our financial treachery. During the six or seven months preceding the war the Berlin Golf Club, composed, to the extent of about 35 or 40 per cent., of English and Americans domiciled in Berlin, raised by subscription a cash fund of 250,000 marks (£12,500) for construction and equipment of a splendid new course and club-house near Potsdam. Part of the grounds on which the links were to be laid out was Crown land placed at the club's disposal through the influence of Admiral Prince Henry of Prussia. Seeding and other operations were actively in progress in Midsummer, 1914, the entire fund being in hand and on deposit with the Dresdner Bank in Berlin.

The Anglo-American participation in the subscription was much larger than the numerical proportion it represented in the club membership. Sir Edward Goschen, the British Ambassador, was honorary president of the organisation.

These facts, apparently, were responsible for the recent action of the German Imperial Treasury in expropriating the entire fund of £12,500 and investing it in German War Loan securities. Several of the "investors" are now guests of the German War Office in the British civilian concentration camp at Ruhleben, which is near the old premises of the golf club. Incidentally, the episode throws a light on how the "phenomenal success" of German War Loans is achieved.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE.

PROGRESS IN MARCH.

Imports March £75,590,918.
Increase on 1914 8,643,602.
Exports March £30,176,066.
Decrease on 1914 14,342,595.
Re-exports March £2,407,133.
Decrease on 1914 1,490,102.
The *London Daily Telegraph* of the 10th ult. has the following comment on the above returns:—

Although allowance must be made for an extra working day last month, owing to there having been five Sundays in March, 1911, against only four in March this year, the Board of Trade returns may still be regarded as very encouraging. The imports show an increase of 12.91 per cent., against 5.18 per cent. in February, while in each of the previous six months of the war decreases were the rule. Higher prices, of course, account for a good deal of the advance in values, cotton, rubber, and petroleum being about the only commodities which have not gone up. But in spite of a reduction of 2,829,773 States, being unable to fully make up for the absence of the usual Russian supply and a shortage in Australia, we got a larger quantity of grain and flour on balance. Maize and oats came to hand in larger quantities from Argentina, and from other sources we received more exception of bacon, which the United States supplied more freely, our imports of meat were smaller in quantity, though the cost was higher. A rise in the price of butter and cheese is again noticeable, and we bought 480,000 cwt. less sugar, though the diminished supply cost £200,000 more. Increased amounts from Java, Mauritius, and the West Indies did not wholly compensate for the lack of German and Austrian shipments, India and China sent us more tea, but at a higher price. Altogether the increase under the head of food, drink, and tobacco is no less than £7,661,367.

INCREASED RECEIPTS OF COTTON AND WOOL.
Our imports of raw material show an increase of £4,932,015, of which the chief item is £2,205,002 of wool. Australia and New Zealand between them sent us an extra 52,000,000 lb. of sheep's wool, for which we received an additional £2,800,000. There is an increase in cotton of 1,057,994 centrals in quantity, chiefly from the United States and Egypt, while the value is only up £113,220. Larger quantities of hemp, jute, and silk also came to hand, so that the textile industry ought to be looking up. Oils show an increase of £1,297,823, but there is the satisfactory feature that while petroleum rose 42 per cent. in quantity the value was only up 23 per cent. Similarly rubber receipts increased 39 per cent. in quantity, but only 33 per cent. in value. As a set-off to the advance in foodstuffs and raw materials our purchases of manufactured goods declined £4,042,894, the principal falling off being in iron and steel, cotton and woollen fabrics, cutlery, motor cars, etc. Leather and chemicals exceptionally show increases as the result of higher prices.

The decrease in the exports amounts to 32.21 per cent., which compares with 36.55 per cent. in February and 41 per cent. in January, so that decided progress can be claimed. The value of the exports of British produce and manufactures last month was £30,176,066, against £29,177,000 in February and £23,247,552 in January, and is by far the largest monthly total since the war broke out. Apart from coal, which fell about 2,027,000 tons and £1,068,925, practically the whole of the month's decrease came under manufactured articles. Cotton goods are down £4,421,735, mainly owing to smaller shipments to India and China, and other declines include £549,929 in woollens, £1,531,949 in iron and steel, £1,978,165 in machinery, £262,105 in new ships, £243,347 in leather, and £475,122 in motor cars and cycles. For the first three months of this year compared with the corresponding period of 1914, the imports have risen 5.63 per cent., while the exports have fallen 36.68 per cent., and the re-exports 25.84 per cent., as under:—

Imports 3 months £508,165,728.
Increase on 1914 11,168,094.
Exports 3 months £24,600,595.
Decrease on 1914 48,936,028.
Re-exports 3 months £21,772,308.
Decrease on 1914 7,589,911.

THE BRITISH ARMY AT THE FRONT.

REINFORCEMENTS AND THE HEALTH OF TROOPS.

Field-Marshal Sir John French in the concluding part of his dispatch on the battle of Neuve Chapelle makes the following general comments:—

In my last despatch I referred to the remarkable promptitude and rapidity with which reinforcements arrived in this country from England. In connection with this it is of interest to call attention to the fact that, in spite of the heavy casualties incurred in the fighting between the 10th and 15th March, all deficiencies, both in officers and rank and file, were made good within a few days of the conclusion of the battle.

The drafts for the Indian Contingents have much improved of late, and are now quite satisfactory.

Since the date of my last report the general health of the Army has been excellent; enteric has decreased, and there has been no recurrence on any appreciable scale of the "foot" trouble which appeared so threatening in December and January.

These results are due to the skill and energy which have characterized in a marked degree the work of the Royal Army Medical Corps throughout the campaign, under the able supervision of Surgeon-General T. J. O'Donnell, D.S.O., Deputy Director-General, Medical Services. But much credit is also due to Divisional, Brigade, Regimental, and Company Commanders for the close supervision which has been kept over the health of their men by seeing that the precautions laid down for the troops before entering and after leaving the trenches are duly observed, and by the establishment and efficient maintenance of bathing-places and wash-houses, and by the ingenious means universally employed throughout the Forces to maintain the cleanliness of the men, having regard both to their bodies and their clothing.

I have inspected most of these houses and establishments, and consider them models of careful organization and supervision.

I would particularly comment upon the energy displayed by the Royal Army Medical Corps in the scientific efforts they have made to discover and check disease in its earliest stages by a system of experimental research, which I think has never before been so fully developed in the field.

In this work they have been ably assisted by those distinguished members of the medical profession who are now employed as Military Medical Officers, and whose invaluable services I gratefully acknowledge.

The actual strength of the Force in the field has been increased and the health of the troops improved by a system of "convalescent" hospitals.

In these establishments slight wounds and minor ailments are treated, and men requiring attention and rest are received. By these means efficient soldiers, whose services would otherwise be lost for a long time, are kept in the country, whilst a large number of men are given immediate relief and rest when they require it without removing them from the area of operations.

This adds materially to the fighting efficiency of the Forces.

The principal convalescent hospital is at St. Omar. It was started and organized by Colonel A. F. L. Bates, Army Medical Service, whose zeal, energy, and organizing power have rendered it a model hospital of its kind, and this example has materially assisted in the efficient organization of similar smaller establishments at every Divisional Headquarters.

HIGH FREIGHT RATES.

POSITION IN CALCUTTA.

A recent Calcutta paper says:—High freight rates are troubling merchants all the world over, but in Calcutta the position is bad not so much from the heavy rise in freight rates as from the scarcity of steamers and the uncertainty as to there being any freight available for business done. Agents of steamers do not book for named steamers which confines bookings to some four to six weeks ahead and then in the event of impressment of the named steamer by the Government all her shipping orders are cancelled. This means that the agent has no responsibility for rebooking either in rate or date while the shippers stand to lose heavily.

At the end of March, when the Government impressed three or four steamers, the differences on rebooking against shippers ran into lakhs of rupees.

To go into figures, there were gunnies booked at 50s. which had to be rebooked when they could be at 84s. and 96s.—this last being Tuesday's current rate. On June the differences were even greater. Given an adequate supply of steamers, however, these rates would not stand in the way of a large trade from Calcutta to all parts of the world, for the demand is good and foreign buyers are quick ready to pay the higher c.f.i. prices resulting from the abnormal freight rates.

The only grievance shippers in Calcutta have is the scant respect shown to shipping orders under the stress of the War clause, but losses under this head—the shippers console themselves with the thought—will be made good to them later by the Government.

As regards foreign demand, it is stated that there is a brisk demand for jute in America and Italy, but no ships are available for these places. Shippers will, however, be able to send some jute to Dundee early next month. There is a large quantity of jute ready for shipment in Calcutta.

THE HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

ORDERS BY LIEUT.-COL. A. CHAPMAN, V.D.

PARADES.

1.—Parades for to-day (Thursday).
5.15 p.m. Civil Service Co. Aiming Drill and Musketry exercises at Headquarters.
5.30 p.m. Right Section M.G. Co. Recruits, Squad drill, Trained men, Aiming instruction, at Headquarters.
5.30 p.m. Left Section M.G. Co. Rifle exercises and Bayonet fighting at Headquarters. Sergt. Bullock will attend.
5.30 p.m. Right Half Scouts Co. Company Drill and Skirmishing at Happy Valley. Fall in on road between Law Courts and City Hall at 5.15 p.m. and proceed by special train.
Remainder: Nil.

DETAILS.

2.—On duty at Headquarters and Kowloon. From 7 a.m. to-day, to 7 a.m. 21st inst.: No. 1 Section Artillery Battery and Centre Section M.G. Co. Officer on duty: Lieut. Koanett. From 7 a.m. 21st to 7 a.m. 22nd inst.: No. 2 Section Artillery Battery and Right Section M.G. Co. Officer on duty: Lieut. C. Smith. Orderly Officer for week: Lieut. Preston. Orderly Sergeant for week: Corporal Carpenter.
Note.—Day guard at Headquarters.—Only the N.C.O. and the first entry are required to parade at 7 a.m.
G. E. STEWART, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.V.C.

THE VOLUNTEER RESERVES.

ORDERS BY MAJOR WAREMAN, O.B.E., V.D.

GUARDS.—Gun Club Hill Guard.—Will be relieved by the H.K.V.C. on Saturday, May 22nd.

DETENTION CAMP GUARD.—The Reserve will relieve the H.K.V.C. on Saturday, May 22nd, and the guard will be provided daily from the following details:—Saturday, May 22nd, Sections 3 and 4 of A Co., under Capt. W. L. Carter. Sunday, May 23rd, Sections 1 and 2 of B Co., under Capt. Brewster.

Monday, May 24th, Sections 3 and 4 of B Co., under Lieut. Bonnar. Tuesday, May 25th, Section 1 of C Co., under Lieut. Branch. Wednesday, May 26th, Sections 2, 3 and 4 of C Co., under Capt. D. Lamble. Thursday, May 27th, Sections 1 and 2 of A Co., under Lieut. Evan-Jones. Friday, May 28th, Sections 3 and 4 of A Co., under Lieut. C. H. Blason. These guards will consist of 1 Officer, 3 N.C.O.s, and 24 men, and will fall in at Murray Pier at 6.20 p.m. Dress, marching order with haversack, waterbottle, tobacco and 150 rounds of ammunition. Dinner will be provided. Private raincoats should be carried rolled over the right shoulder.

VOLUNTEER HEADQUARTERS GUARD.—A guard of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men will be on duty from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily and will be provided by the following details:—Saturday, May 22nd, Section 1 of C Co. Sunday, May 23rd, Section 4 of C Co. Monday, May 24th, Section 3 of A Co. Tuesday, May 25th, Section 1 of B Co. Wednesday, May 26th, Section 1 of B Co. Thursday, May 27th, Section 3 of B Co. Friday, May 28th, Sections 2 and 3 of C Co.

These guards will be detailed by the Section Commanders, who will report to the Orderly Sergeant the day before. Orderly Sergeant: Corporal J. A. Young.

TRANSFER.—Pte. F. Graham is transferred from Section 4 of C Co. to Section 3 of B Co.
POSTINGS.—Pte. W. Nicholson to A Company Section 1.
Pte. J. A. Bullen to B Company Section 2.
W. L. CARTER, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.V.C.

POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

PARADES.—CENTRAL POLICE STATIONS.

Thursday, May 20th.—The whole of Class C (as detailed for Musketry Meeting) for instruction in the use of Service Rifles, 5.30 p.m. sharp. Men who have had actual experience in the use of such rifles are exempt from this parade. The Kowloon section of the British Company will receive this instruction at the Water Police Station.

Friday, May 21st.—The whole of Classes A and B, for instruction in the use of Service Rifles, 5.30 p.m. sharp.
MURKIN COMPANY.

Until further orders, members residing in Hongkong, including Bunje and Tully, will form No. 1 Platoon, and will be temporarily in charge of Mr. T. Hynes, Superintendent of Mails, General Post Office.

Similarly, residents in Kowloon will form No. 2 Platoon and be temporarily in charge of Mr. A. H. Hewitt, Hok On Cement Works, Hung Hom.
Mr. S. J. Chinchun, North China Insurance Company, will temporarily take charge of all musketry matters and keep all papers in connection with the Company.
F. C. JENKIN, A. S. P. (Reserve).

THE "ASAMA" RE-FLOATED.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

The Navy Department announces that the Japanese cruiser *Asama*, which has been lying stranded in Turtle Bay, Mexico, has been successfully refloated.

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The following are the Company's figures for week ending 15th May:—

Receipts \$ 8,911.
Decrease compared with corresponding week last year: 1,735.
Aggregate to date:—
No. of weeks 20
Total \$211,673.
Decrease to date 23,733.

OVERSEAS AIRCRAFT FUND.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST NO. 3.

Mr. C. Wooley	\$ 25.00
Harbour Dept. per Commander	
Beckwith, R.N.	23.00
Mr. H. C. Sandford	30.00
Mr. Joseph Gould	100.00
Mr. C. Thorne	50.00
E. G. L.	25.00
Mr. A. Ritchie	50.00
Messrs. Joseph Bros	150.00
Mr. F. A. Bidn	100.00
Mr. Chan Siu Ki	100.00
Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son	100.00
Mr. Ip Lan Chuen	50.00
Mr. Ho Kwong	50.00
Mr. Ho Lu	50.00
Hongkong and Kowloon Land and Loan Co., Ltd.	200.00
Man On Insurance Co., Ltd.	200.00
Chun On Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	200.00
Mr. and Mrs. Bowley	50.00
Messrs. Low, Bingham & Matthews	200.00
N. C.	10.00
Mr. D. W. Craddock	25.00
Mr. T. Arnot	50.00
Mr. W. Armstrong	15.00
A. S.	15.00
Anonymous	150.00

Previously acknowledged ... \$2,118.68

\$20,163.68

Note: Amount required to supply the latest type of Vicker's Gun-Plane, complete with gun, is approximately \$25,000.

N. J. STABB,

Hon. Treasurer.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1915.

BADEN POWELL BOY SCOUTS' BUILDING FUND.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST NO. 2.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens	\$100.00
Sir William Rice Davies, K.C.	25.00
Mr. G. C. Moxon	10.00
Mr. G. M. Young	30.00
Anonymous	10.00
Mr. Lo Cheung Shui	25.00
Mr. E. Ormiston	10.00
Dr. Gomez	25.00
Well Wisher	15.00
Mr. Chan Siu Ki	50.00
Mr. C. A. Chapman, V.D.	15.00
N. J. & W. W. Stabb	20.00
Mr. Henry Humphreys	25.00
Messrs. De Souza & Co.	100.00
Messrs. Botelho Bros	100.00

Previously acknowledged ... \$550.00

\$2,279.00

N. J. STABB,

Hon. Treasurer.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1915.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

"OLYMPIC TRIALS."

HONGKONG TO REPRESENT CHINA.

Hongkong 4

Nanyang 1

In the qualifying round for participation in the Far Eastern Championship Games, the Chinese team from Hongkong caused a mild sensation by defeating in convincing style the "hope of the North," to wit, the Nanyang College, by a margin of 4 goals to 1. The game was played on the S. N. Railway Grounds on the Markham Road—kindly lent for the occasion—the Railway authorities also generously providing a special train for those interested in the match. There can be no difference of opinion about the superiority of the players from the Crown Colony. They had infinitely more dash, clever foot work and a better conception of the game altogether. The local team played desperately against overwhelming odds, but were clearly outmatched. Only thirty minutes were played each way, and as a result of their fine exhibition, the Hongkong contingent will have the honour of representing China in the Olympic games. If they can only maintain yesterday's form, China's chances of Championship honours are roseate indeed. Mr. H. B. Stewart proved a very efficient referee. —*Shanghai Mercury.*

THE CHINESE ARMY.

PRESIDENT ON THE TRAINING OF TROOPS.

The President has despatched a circular telegram to the Chiang Chuns of provinces, expressing dissatisfaction with the method of training troops now in vogue in the provinces. The present troops of this country have attained to a certain degree of success in studying tactics and other military arts, but these accomplishments have proved of little practical value whenever actually engaged in military operations. This has been due mainly to the fact that in ordinary times the officers train their men only for fair weather show and no real discipline is enforced. Consequently the organization of the troops has become so loose that each individual soldier is just like a particle of sand without cohesion and in emergencies even the officers can not direct them without difficulty. The officers have committed a sin which cannot be retrieved even by death; that is they mislead their men and disregard the safety of the country and even of their own person. The relations between the officers and men should be as cordial and intimate as those existing between members of the same family and they should share the same interests and the same dangers. If commanding officers understood this and paid more attention to the spirit and discipline of the army, it would not be difficult for the men to obey whatever orders they give and accomplish whatever service they desire their men to perform. —*Peking Gazette.*

OUR LONDON LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, April 13th.

THE QUESTION OF CONSCRIPTION.

Once more we are having a preliminary discussion on the prospect of conscription. In an elaborate statement to an American correspondent, Mr. Tennant, the War Office spokesman in the House of Commons, tells the American people that the success of voluntary recruiting in England proves that America and England are right to maintain a voluntary system. Mr. St. Leo Strachey, editor of the *Spectator*, and others are active on the opposite side, and the matter will shortly come up again in Parliament. As far as one can gauge the drift of public opinion, conscription would be accepted only on the assurance of the highest authorities that it was absolutely necessary for the national safety, and not merely a matter of theoretical argument set out by arm-chair critics of the administration. Without such assurance the proposal would rouse even more than the usual amount of suspicion for the average citizen is proud of the way in which men have come forward, and he is on the watch for manipulators eager to take advantage of a time of popular stress to place their own particular plans on the statute book.

This week may give some further evidence to the administration on this question, however, for thousands of mid-day and Sunday recruiting meetings are being held in the open air, wherever men are likely to be gathered at the luncheon hour, and the political parties are uniting to urge Londoners to join the colours. They have hit a good moment, for the White Paper issued by the Government showing the ill-treatment of British prisoners of war in Germany has made men more eager to deliver summary justice to the Hunns themselves. I hear that the result of many of these meetings is already good, but the aggregate reward of this oratory will not be known for a week or more.

KING'S HIGHLAND HOME AS A HOSPITAL.

It is rumoured in Court circles that the King is considering the advisability of turning Balmoral, his Highland home, into a war hospital, or convalescent home. He has great faith in the recuperative power of the northern air, and he knows that if other owners of large mansions would follow his example there would be a very large addition to the available quarters for officers and men who have suffered in the fight against the Huns.

The Kaiser should be interested to hear of the proposed new use for Balmoral, for it was there that his father was engaged to be married. "Our dear Victoria," the late Queen wrote, "was engaged to Prince Frederick William of Prussia. During our ride up Craig-e-Bon this afternoon he picked a piece of white heather which he gave to her." The place where they plighted their troth is still marked. But whatever good luck accompanies the white heather cannot be said to have continued to the son, who is now on the way to bringing the Hohenzollern house to ruin.

Balmoral should prove a perfect haven of rest for those men stricken in the field, whose greatest hurt is in their nerves, through the excessive strain of the terrible modern warfare and the unceasing din of giant shells and colossal armaments.

THE PARLIAMENT, PEOPLE AND WAR.

Though the present Parliament has still nearly ten months to run before it reaches the end of its statutory term, the rumour is renewed that an announcement as to the date of the next election will be made very shortly. Two alternatives have been under consideration—the first, a formal or no-change election, which should, in effect, be a general re-election, to be followed at the close of the war by a contest on normal party lines; and the other, an extension of the life of the existing Parliament till the close of the war, uninterrupted by any electoral fight in the meantime. Some have favoured a third course—that of holding the election at the appointed time in the ordinary way, whether the war be over or not. But for this suggestion there is little support on either side. One of the difficulties in the way of a true election is the refusal of certain constituencies to be bound by the arrangements of party leaders. This, it is suggested, is more particularly a Labour difficulty, of which, indeed, we are having an illustration at present in the threatened contest for Mid-Durham. A few such incidents at a general election would probably have the effect of widening the field of contention to an incalculable extent, and might lead to results quite incompatible with the terms of the original compact.

THE DEMAND FOR SHIPPING.

While some are discussing new lines of steamers across the Pacific, it is interesting to note how greatly the price of steamers has gone up in Europe. Owing to the pressure of Admiralty work, ship-builders are now unable to promise delivery of new merchant vessels before the end of next year. The result is that there is an enormous demand for second-hand tonnage, for which record prices are being paid. In one case a steamer which was bought five years ago for £17,000 has just been sold for £30,000, and it is said that if the purchaser had been given a guarantee that the vessel would not be requisitioned by the Government an even higher figure would have been obtained. Values are, in fact, so high that several companies have decided to sell all their ships in order to realize the big profits now being made. Almost everywhere, indeed—except, of course, in Austria and Germany—there appears to be a brisk inquiry for more vessels, and with a view to making good the shortage along the Atlantic seaboard of North America, a large number of steamers will be transferred from the Great Lakes within the next week or two.

SHIP LOST THROUGH CHINESE.

Of the steamers torpedoed in the last week, the experience of the captain of the *Delmira*, of Liverpool, has given point to the agitator's protests against the employment of Chinese on British ships. A few of the crew were British and they stuck to their work, but when the submarine fired a signal to the steamer to leave to, and the captain gave the order to put on all possible speed, the Chinese refused to obey. The ship was then held, and so the submarine was able to overhaul the ship, though at her full speed she could have got away without much difficulty. Our Admiralty has now a plan for operation which provides nasty surprises for the raiders from time to time. In this way—the details of which I know but must not publish—the *U-29* was accounted for, and our handy men are ready to exclaim at any moment: "Next, please!"

THE NATIONAL CITY GUARD.

Everybody just now is struck by the prevailing enthusiasm of the middle-aged men in the metropolis. There would have been a wide area of smiles if a year ago, a band of middle-aged or elderly citizens had donned a close imitation of the service uniform and marched through London, headed by the Lord Mayor, for drill and exercises in Hyde Park, before the critical eyes of their wives, daughters and even grand-daughters. But the National City Guard today is taken seriously, and many an experienced military officer has commented with approval on the smartness and precision of their drill. There is more than mere show in this going-to-school-again for these normally dignified and staid City men. It means business, a downright, quiet but stern determination.

What do you think Tommy at the front has hit upon as the pronunciation of Przemyśl? This Russian tongue-twister has puzzled many, but Tommy, with characteristic directness, merely announces to his mate that the "Blooming Russians have taken Primrose Hill."

CAMPHOR IN BURMA AND PHILIPPINES.

A recent United States consular report says that an investigator for the bureau of forestry of the Philippine Islands has discovered that a local plant that has been heretofore commonly regarded as a weed is the same as that from which the *ngai* camphor is manufactured in other parts of the Far East. The plant is the *Blumea balsamifera*, described as a tall, almost woody herb, 5 to 8 feet high, very common, and extensively used by the natives in the practice of medicine. The plant is described as very plentiful in the Philippines. It has never before been regarded as a camphor-bearing plant, although it is known to be identical with the *Blumea balsamifera* found in Burma and China. The Chinese in Hainan have long manufactured the *ngai* camphor from this plant, but the crude methods employed in the manufacture of the product have made the labour expensively in obtaining the camphor disproportionate to the output. The whole output of Hainan according to one authority, is not much over 50 pounds per day. A well-known British chemist, who made an extended investigation into the production of *ngai* camphor with a view to introducing its manufacture into Burma in 1908, says that this kind of camphor is produced only in Hainan, Taiwan (Formosa), and Canton. The crude *ngai* camphor, known as *ngai fen*, appears in dirty-white crystalline grains and contains more or less impurities. The refined *ngai* camphor, which is called *ngai-p'ien*, is perfectly colourless. It is probable that in the manufacture of camphor from the *Blumea balsamifera* in the Philippines, the same difficulty would be encountered that presented itself to the investigators of Burma five or six years ago, for the plant, while comparatively plentiful in the Islands, does not seem to be so distributed as to make the opening of a factory feasible; that is, a constant and sufficient supply of raw material could not be obtained within a radius all points of which would be sufficiently near the factory to make the project practicable. In other words, artificial cultivation of the plant would have to be resorted to in order to get a supply sufficient to keep a factory operating throughout the year. However, judging by the abundance of the weed in the Islands and this way in which it thrives without cultivation there would be no great difficulty in growing the plant in great quantities by cultivation should the production of *ngai* camphor be found to be commercially desirable.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Messrs. Vernon & Smyth in their weekly share report, dated 10th May, 1916.

Our last report was issued on the 14th inst. In the interval the local market has remained firm throughout, with a good demand for investment securities, and we have again to report improvement, more or less substantial, in several stocks. In London descriptions but little has been done, and quotations else more or less nominal at about last week's rates. "Rubbers" appear to be attracting some attention at low prices, but up to the present no business of importance has transpired. Bar Silver is quoted to-day at 23s 10d, Sterling T.T. at 1/9 1/2, Shanghai T.T. at 7s and Singapore T.T. at 7s 1/2. The Bank's buying rate for 3d/s bills on Shanghai is unchanged at 70 1/2. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been booked at \$790, and close firm at this quotation with sellers holding for considerably higher prices. Marine Insurances.—Unions after remaining more or less neglected since the meeting have come into demand with sales at \$855 and further buyers. Canton has continued in favour and are now enquired for at the improved quotation of \$360. North China are unchanged with buyers for Northern account at Tls. 170, and Yangtze quiet with probable buyers at \$225, ex. 73. Pink Insurances.—Hongkong continues in request at \$385 and China at \$120, but there are no sellers of either in evidence at present, and we have no business to report.

Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$23 and close steady with probable sellers. Indo-China have led to business at \$98 and \$99, and a few shares are obtainable at the higher rate. Douglases have again been the medium of an important volume of business at rates ranging from \$45 to \$47 1/2 and equivalent rates on time, and close in strong request for both cash and forward delivery. China and Manila have been booked at \$4.90 at which more shares can be placed, but at \$5 there are sellers. Star Ferries after neglect for some time at \$33 have suddenly come into favour and have risen rapidly to \$39 with a few small sales at intermediate rates, market closing with probable sellers at \$39.

Ons.—Shells have been booked at 33/- and Ural Caspians at 43/-, but otherwise we have heard of no business in this section. Langkats in sympathy with the fluctuating output have varied in the North between Tls. 40 and Tls. 42, closing with reported buyers at Tls. 41.

Mining.—Kailans have been booked at 32/6 ex the dividend of 1/- per share, (Coupon 5) recently declared, and more shares could probably be placed on this basis. Raubs are wanted at \$3.60 and Tronohs are on offer at 32/6, with no business reported in either stock.

Refineries.—China Sugars are quieter but still firm at last quotation, viz., \$117. Luzons have not maintained their position, and after sales at \$295 cash and \$300 August, close with sellers for cash at \$290.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled firm with buyers at advancing rates and closing in good demand at \$10. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have also appreciated, closing in request at \$72 after small sales at \$69 and intervening rates. Shanghai Docks and Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves are unchanged in the North at Tls. 51 and Tls. 83 respectively with no local business reported.

Land, Hotels and Buildings.—Hongkong Lands continue on offer at \$100 and Humphreys Estates at \$7 with no business to report. Central Estates have been done at \$100 and more shares are available. There are buyers of Hongkong Hotels at \$112, and of West Points at \$70, but shares are not at present forthcoming, the same remark applying to Kowloon Lands, which continue in request at \$40.

Cotton Mills.—The demand for Northern stocks continues strong, but few local transactions have transpired owing to the scarcity of sellers. The closing rates are as follows:—Ewos Tls. 155 buyers, Hongkong \$74 sales and buyers, Kung Yik sales at Tls. 142 and probable buyers, Internationals Tls. 90, Laou Kung Mows Tls. 89, Soy Chees Tls. 434, and Shanghai Cottons Tls. 39 to Tls. 393, with sales for June of the latter at Tls. 101.

Miscellaneous.—Green Island Cements have been booked at \$6.00, Electrics at \$41 1/2, and Hongkong Trams at \$5.20, all closing in request at these rates or slightly under. There are buyers of China Boreas at \$24, Providents at \$8.10, Dairy Farms at \$24, Repes at \$22 1/2, Watsons at \$7.10 and Union Waterboats at \$16 1/2.

Mexico.—Hongkong Tramway Co., Ltd. (Local Register), transfer books closed from the 1st to 20th inst., inclusive. Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd., ordinary annual meeting on the 22nd inst., transfer books closed from the 8th to 22nd inst., inclusive. Peak Tramways Co., Ltd., ordinary annual meeting on the 25th inst., transfer books closed from 20th to 27th inst., inclusive.

"TIPPERARY."

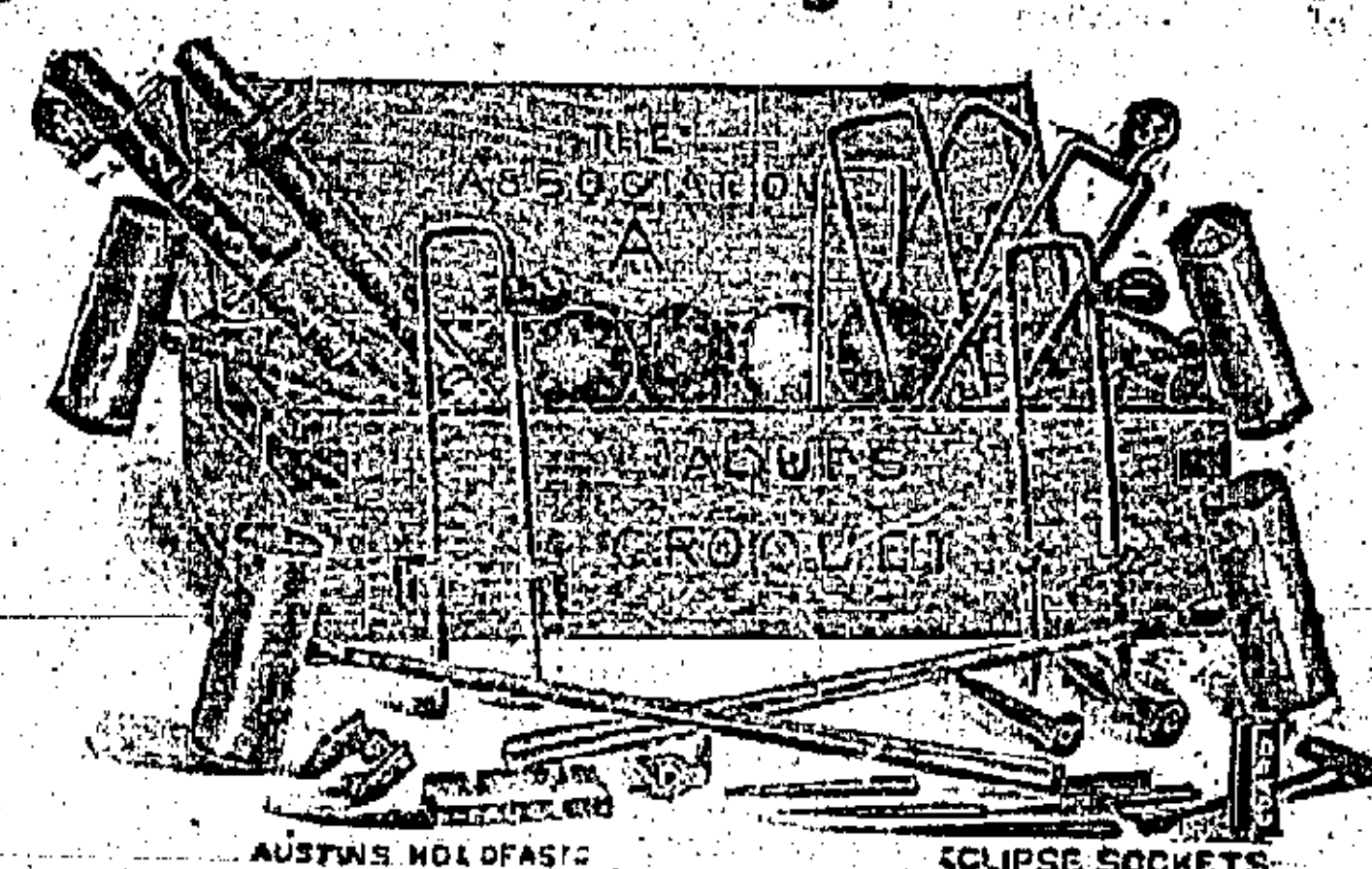
STORY OF A BRITISH SOLDIER AND HIS CAPTORS.

A Belgian correspondent in the "Mail" tells the following story of a British soldier who was being marched through Ghent in the charge of three Germans:—The British soldier was hatless, but he was smoking a cigarette with evident enjoyment. One woman ran out and wanted to give the soldier a cap, but the guards waved her away. All were sympathetic to the soldier, till at last one poor woman burst out crying at the sight of the prisoner. The soldier saw, took his cigarette from his mouth, and with a smile called out, "Don't cry, mother; I've killed twenty-five of them." "What did you say?" asked the German guard. And the soldier replied in broken French "I was asking the way to Tipperary." "Farther on at the Kommandatur office No. 6," answered the guard satisfied.

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PRICES ... \$3, \$2 AND \$1. PLANS NOW AT MOUTRIE'S.

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\$1.00 per 1/2 lb. tin. \$1.00 per 1/2 lb. tin.

It is a delightfully cool and finely flavoured Tobacco and it has the great advantage of keeping dry during this hot and damp weather. There are many smokers in Hongkong and the ports of South China who give up pipe smoking as soon as the damp and foggy weather sets in, as their pipes become foul. If they will try a tin of this carefully-blended Mixture they will find they can enjoy their pipes with as perfect comfort as they do in the cool and dry season.

SOLD BY—HONGKONG CIGAR STORE, A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd., KELLY & WALSH, LTD., LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1915.

THE WAR.

REPORTED DIFFERENCES AT ADMIRALTY.

LORD FISHER RESIGNS.

COALITION CABINET PROBABLE.

PROTECTION AGAINST GERMAN GASES.

ALLIES TO USE "SIMILAR METHODS."

AUSTRIAN DEFEAT IN BUKHOVINA.

DESPERATE EFFORTS TO STEM RUSSIAN TIDE.

GENERAL.

LORD FISHER RESIGNS. BRITISH CABINET CRISIS.

LONDON, May 18th.

There are persistent reports in the Lobby of the House of Commons that a Coalition Cabinet is about to be formed. Three Unionist leaders conferred with Mr. Asquith to-day. The exact allocation of offices has not been determined, but it is rumoured that Mr. Balfour, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. F. E. Smith and Lord Derby will enter the Cabinet, while Lord Haldane, Earl Beauchamp, Lord Lucas, Mr. Harcourt and Mr. Birrell will retire.

It is understood that Lord Fisher, First Sea Lord, has resigned and that Mr. Churchill leaves the Admiralty, but remains in the Cabinet. Mr. Balfour is mentioned as First Lord of the Admiralty.

LONDON, May 18th.

Lord Fisher has been absent from the Admiralty for two days. His Lordship had a prolonged interview with Mr. Asquith on Saturday.

Mr. Lloyd George has postponed his visit to the great manufacturing centres. A statement in Parliament on the political situation is expected to-day.

LATER.

No statement has been made in Parliament, but it is reported in the Lobbies that the resignation of Lord Fisher has caused a crisis.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says two masterful personalities have clashed at the Admiralty, and this has culminated in differences regarding the Dardanelles. The *Pall Mall Gazette* suggests the appointment of Mr. Churchill as Secretary of State for India, and Mr. Chamberlain as Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Crowe remaining as Lord President of Council.

ALLIES' REPHISALS FOR POISONOUS GAS.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY LORD KITCHENER.

LONDON, May 18th.

Lord Kitchener, in the House of Lords, announced that the British and French Governments felt that the troops must be adequately protected from poisonous gases by the employment of similar methods, thus removing the enormous unjustifiable disadvantage. If we did not take these steps Lord Kitchener said he would have to call for 300,000 more recruits to form new armies.

Lord Kitchener added he was quite confident that in the very near future we would be in a satisfactory position as regards the supply of ammunition. The news from Gallipoli was thoroughly satisfactory. He emphasised the brilliant French successes in the neighbourhood of Arras, and, referring to the Russians, said they were now holding a strong line in West Galicia and had achieved a big counter-offensive in Bukovina. The German losses were enormous. The Russians had taken many unrounded prisoners. He paid a glowing tribute to General Sir Louis Botha's operations in South-West Africa.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ITALY AND THE WAR. DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT ITALY.

Rome, May 18th.

War demonstrations continue throughout Italy. Men have been recalled to the Colours and departing troops are everywhere acclaimed.

AUSTRIA'S CONCESSIONS TO ITALY.

STATEMENT IN GERMAN REICHSTAG.

AMSTERDAM, May 18th.

Herr Bethmann Hollweg, the German Chancellor, speaking in the Reichstag, said Austria, in an effort to ensure friendship, offered to Italy the sovereignty of Valona and the Italian portions of the Tyrol and the western bank of the Isonzo, while Trieste would fall as a city of Italian character.

[The text of the Cable with regard to Trieste is not clear; it reads "while Trieste fall city of Italian character."]

Austria declares her political disinterest in Albania, and finally promises particularly to respect the interests of Italian nationals in Austria and grants an amnesty to political prisoners in the territories.

The impression the speech made on the majority of the audience was that war with Italy is inevitable.

KING GEORGE AT THE CLYDE.

LONDON, May 18th.

His Majesty the King spent eight hours on Monday and another eight hours on Tuesday inspecting works on the Clyde.

His Majesty reviewed the troops at Glasgow and visited the wounded in the hospital.

Replying to a resolution of the Fairfield workers, the King telegraphed his satisfaction with their determination to deal with Government work in the most efficient and the most rapid manner possible, adding: "This will strengthen the nation's confidence in ultimate victory."

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST WELL-KNOWN BANKER.

SIR EDGAR SPEYER RESIGNS ALL PUBLIC POSITIONS.

LONDON, May 18th.

Sir Edgar Speyer, Bart., P.C., has resigned all his public positions, including his Privy Councillorship and his Baronetcy.

Writing to Mr. Asquith, Sir Edgar Speyer said: "I have hitherto treated with disdain the suggestions of treachery and disloyalty, but since they have been repeated by public men I cannot longer be silent. I am not a man to be drummed into an attitude of justification, but I consider it due to my honour as a loyal Britisher to retire from all public positions."

[Sir Edgar Speyer became a partner in his father's three firms—Speyer Bros., London; Speyer & Co., New York; and L. Speyer-Ellissen, Frankfurt-on-Main, in 1884. He was resident partner in Frankfurt until 1887, when he came to London to take the direction of the house (Speyer Bros.). He is of German parentage, and married a daughter of Count von Stosch.]

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

AMERICA AND SUBMARINE PIRACY.

AUSTRO-GERMAN AMBASSADORS TRYING TO AVOID A RUPTURE.

WASHINGTON, May 18th.

Count Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, and the Austrian Ambassador are displaying the keenest diplomatic activity in an endeavour to avoid a rupture. It is understood that the Ambassadors telegraphed to their Governments urging the suspension of submarine attacks on passenger-ships during the diplomatic discussion. Austria, particularly, is seeking a peaceful settlement.

"LUSITANIA" TRAGEDY.

SUBMARINES PREVENTED RESCUE WORK.

LONDON, May 18th.

The steamer *Ronia* has arrived at Boston, U.S.A., from Liverpool and has reported that she and other steamers were attacked by two submarines when they tried to go to the assistance of the *Lusitania* after receiving the latter's call for help.

The *Eltonia* picked up the *Lusitania's* call forty miles from Kinsale, and as she was steaming in that direction she was twice pursued by submarines but escaped owing to her superior speed and by zigzagging.

The steamers *City of Exeter* and the *Narragansett* had similar experiences. A torpedo missed the latter by eight feet.

LOST AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINE.

LONDON, May 18th.

The Admiralty presumes that the Turkish report of the sinking of the *AE 3* in the Sea of Marmara is true. Three officers and seventeen men were captured out of a crew of three officers and 29 men aboard.

RUSSIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GREAT RUSSIAN VICTORY. AUSTRIAN ARMY ROUTED AND FLYING IN DISORDER.

CZERNOWITZ OCCUPIED BY THE VICTORS.

PETROGRAD, May 18th.

An official communiqué says:—

The magnitude of the Austrian rout in the Bukovina entirely nullifies the Austrians' temporary success in West Galicia. The whole region from the River Dniester to the River Pruth is now in our power. The Austrian Army is fleeing in disorder after its terrible defeat, and is evacuating a powerfully organised position extending over 100 miles, in the defence of which the enemy sacrificed enormous quantities of life and money. Czernowitz is already ours.

The remnants of the Austrian Army are flying toward the Pruth. They are doomed to disaster by the brilliant action of our cavalry, which is continually hurling itself on the retreating masses. The booty is daily increasing.

The only point in Bukovina demanding attention is Kolomea, where the enemy has been reinforced and is fighting most desperately, because it forms a vital railway centre.

The Austrians' failure, which is imminent, will immediately destroy further resistance in the entire Bukovina region.

BATTLE IN WEST GALICIA GERMAN TRENCHES STORMED.

PETROGRAD, May 18th.

An official communiqué says:—The battle of Chavli continues to develop most favourably for us. The Russians have crossed the Dubissa, and attacked the Germans. We stormed their trenches, and captured prisoners.

We have taken up a new front between the Pilicia and the Upper Vistula.

A sudden counter-attack inflicted severe losses on the enemy's advance-guard while impetuous attacks in the Opatow region drove the enemy back over seven miles.

There has been a violent artillery action at the mouth of the Wislok to Przemyśl.

We inflicted heavy losses on the enemy at Stryl and Dolina, and took prisoners. The enemy on the Pruth from Delatyn to Kolomea, made repeated attacks in close formation, which we successfully defeated. We captured four more heavy guns and advanced beyond the river.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

DESPERATE ENEMY OFFENSIVE.

ATTEMPT TO STEM RUSSIAN TIDE.

PETROGRAD, May 18th.

It is officially announced that between Opatoff, on the left of the Vistula, and on the whole Galician front to Kolomea, great masses of the enemy on the 16th inst. attacked the Russian positions, making the region north and south of Przemyśl the centre of their efforts. The Russians repulsed furious attacks on the left of the Vistula, and counter-attacking, captured 3,000 prisoners and several guns.

The enemy near Jaroslav, despite extraordinary losses, are endeavouring to establish themselves on the right bank of the San and are bombarding the western forts of Przemyśl.

Between Przemyśl and the Great Dniester marshes masses of the enemy have been repeatedly slaughtered on the wire entanglements, but they succeeded in capturing trenches and two battalions of troops.

The losses of the enemy over the whole region are estimated at ten thousands (sic).

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

MORE PRISONERS TAKEN.

PARIS, May 18th.

7 p.m.

To-day's communiqué says:—

We took to-day further prisoners in Belgium.

The Germans attempted at attack in the Berry-au-Bac region, but they were easily repulsed.

BAD WEATHER PREVENTS FIGHTING.

PARIS, May 18th.

12.50 a.m.

The evening communiqué states:—Uninterrupted rain since Monday evening and a thick mist have prevented any further fighting, even the cannonade being feeble.

"WAIT TILL THE 15TH." HOW THE BRITISH ASTONISHED THE GERMANS.

LONDON, May 18th.

Correspondents in northern France describe the British preparation for the attack on Festubert. The finest artillery work hitherto smashed the wire in a most effective manner, hence the casualties were less than was expected considering the nature of the fighting. The Germans were astonished at the thunder of the British guns, as they were given to understand that we were short of ammunition. The Germans, for the past fortnight, have been shouting from the trenches "Wait till the 15th." Apparently a terrific onslaught was planned, but the 15th found their artillery mastered and their lines battered. There were extraordinary German losses, and it is estimated that there were 150,000 at the last battle at Ypres alone. The exhaustion of the available reinforcements upset the German plans, and the British had been quiescent since the failure on the 9th.

After much consideration it was decided to risk a night attack. There was a slow and persistent bombardment for several days, but nothing was shown to indicate the direction of the attack which opened at 11.30 on Saturday night.

Field-Marshal Sir John French, on Saturday afternoon, rode in front of the troops, who acclaimed him, and he spoke a few inspiring words to them. The men were most keen.

All the movements took place after dusk and the night was moonless. The greater part of the British Left, which led the attack, stormed the German line with the bayonet and hand grenades.

Then the Left and the Centre rushed up with the bayonet and took two lines of trenches. The attack on the extreme Left suffered from severe maxim fire, but the Indians on this side eventually penetrated the opening which was made on the Left and in the Centre, and began to outflank and break down the defences facing their original point of attack. Severe fire from the German rear at dawn was quickly mastered by our heavy guns.

The fresh and formidable British line from the Right advanced at three in the morning, and by 11 o'clock had penetrated a mile into the German lines.

AFRICA.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

OCCUPATION OF WINDHOEK.

GENERAL BOTHA CONGRATULATED.

LONDON, May 18th.

His Majesty the King has wired to General Sir Louis Botha his congratulations on the success of the Union Forces at Windhoek.

The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth (Hon. Mr. Andrew Fisher) cabled General Botha:—"Australia congratulates the Union Forces on the entry into the enemy capital."

FURTHER SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS.

PRETORIA, May 18th.

Colonel Mentz, operating to the east of Windhoek, captured 149 prisoners and 25 waggons of provisions.

SCENE IN THE COMMONS.

ANTI-FOOTBALL AGITATOR SEIZES THE MACE.

LONDON, May 18th.

There was a scene in the House of Commons in the evening, when a stranger, wearing a silk hat, rushed to the floor of the House, seized the Mace, and shouted inarticulately. Attendants ejected him.

The invader was afterwards identified as one Harrington, the conductor of the anti-football agitation during the war.

PRESIDENT WILSON VISITS THE U.S. FLEET.

GREAT PATRIOTIC RECEPTIONS.

WASHINGTON, May 18th.

President Wilson was accorded great receptions on the occasion of a visit to the Fleet. The spirit of patriotism was made very evident. Many seized the opportunity to inform the President of their support in the international situation.

President Wilson was plainly touched by the orations of the people.

THE CRISIS IN PORTUGAL. RE-ASSURING REPORT.

LISBON, May 18th.

All is now quiet. A new Cabinet has been formed. The condition of the Premier, who was wounded, is satisfactory.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IMPEACHED.

PEKING, May 18th.

A Censor has impeached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the loss of China's sovereign rights suffered as a result of the recent negotiations with Japan.

A JAPANESE CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

PEKING, May 18th.

Japan has made a claim on the Chinese Government for \$408,000 compensation for damages suffered by her nationals at Hankow.

A MACAO ACTION.

SUCCESSFUL CLAIM AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

A decision has been reached in the Macao Courts in a case which has been dragging on for years. In May, 1809, the Government took over the opium farm and with it certain properties which the Government regarded as forming part of the security for the fulfilment of the farmers' contract. The properties were claimed by the Chan family and they have ever since been trying to recover possession. The final Court of Appeal has now decided against the Government and ordered the return of the properties to the Chan family together with the rents due in respect of the property. Since the death of Mr. Basto, Dr. Mello Leito has acted as the Chan family's advocate. The property in question includes a building occupied as the Government printing office, another building occupied as a residence by a Government servant, and a third building which is used as a preserved fruit factory.

REMARKABLE OPIUM CASE.

ALLEGED VICTIMISATION OF CHINESE SERVANT-BOY.

A remarkable story was told at the Magistrate's yesterday by a Chinese servant-boy, who arrived in the Colony on the *Hirano Maru* from London, in answer to a charge of being in unlawful possession of 80 balls of Malwa opium, and with importing same into the Colony.

The defendant stated that he followed his master, a man named Cohen, from Shanghai to London on the 3rd January last. He stayed a fortnight in London, and then his master told him that he had to go to America. He instructed the defendant to proceed to Hongkong and await his (Cohen's) arrival. Mr. Cohen also directed his friend, a Mr. May, to see that defendant left for Hongkong. Two trunks were put in charge of the defendant for conveyance to Hongkong.

His master said he had a friend named Read, who lived at the Hongkong Hotel, and he told defendant that if he could not get a job in Hongkong he should go to Mr. Read. When the ship arrived the Hongkong Hotel runner came on board, accompanied by another man (Mr. Read), who asked "You are Mr. Cohen's boy?" On defendant replying in the affirmative, Cohen further asked "You have two boxes, haven't you?" Defendant said "Yes," and the ship steward was requested to bring them forward. The boxes were then taken to the Hongkong Hotel. Defendant worked in Mr. Read's room, which was No. 477, on Saturday, but Read had since gone away. Defendant affirmed that he was entirely ignorant of the contents of the trunks.

Sergeant Pincott, who made the seizure, said there had been a man named Read living at the Hongkong Hotel. He left on the previous day by the *Katori Maru*.

In answer to his Worship, Mr. J. H. Taggart said that a man named Read did in fact occupy Room 477.

The defendant was discharged.

THE STRANDED "TJIMAHU."

The latest advice regarding the stranded Java-China-Japan line steamer *Tjimahu*, which went ashore on the north reef of the Paracels at 8 o'clock on the night of the 14th inst., is that the vessel is in a dangerous position. The Captain and crew were transferred to the *P. & O. Oriental* which reached Hongkong yesterday afternoon. The *Java Line* steamer *Tjikembang* has been advised to stand by the stranded vessel.

MILITARY ENTERTAINMENT.

There was a crowded audience at the Victoria Cinematograph Theatre last evening, when a "grand Military entertainment" was given. Part of the proceeds will be given to the Territorial Entertainment Fund, which should benefit substantially as a result. The entertainment was under the patronage of H.E. the General Officer Commanding the troops in China (Major-General F. H. Kelly, C.B.), who was present for a short while. All the officers of the Shropshire L.I. in the Colony (including Major Hawkins) were present. A long and diversified programme of entertaining items had been arranged, and the entertainment was undoubtedly a thorough success.

The principal item was a laughable sketch by the Stonecutters' Dramatic Society. The sketch bore the title, "Motoring, by Harry Tate," and the characters were excellently sustained by the following:—Lieut. Chapman (School-boy); Gunner Potan (Harry Tate); Lieut. Taylor (Friend at the Seaside); Gunners Smart and Bursard (Yokels); Corporal McGregor (Chauffeur) and Trumpeter Knight (Village Urchin). Those who contributed to the programme were:—Miss May Clark (patriotic songs), Professor Gonzales (violin solo), Mr. Harry Ralph (illuminated Club solo and monologue), Mr. Miller (Clog dance), the Three Carsonas (sharpshooting), Mr. Baptista (comic song), and Mr. Hammett (ventriloquist). Mr. Geo. Grimble assisted as accompanist. In addition to the items mentioned, the management screened several excellent moving pictures.

This returns compiled by *Lloyd's Register* for the quarter ended March 31st show that, excluding warships, there were 471 vessels of 1,587,487 tons gross under construction in the United Kingdom. The tonnage now under construction is about 40,000 less than the previous quarter, and 305,000 less than in the corresponding quarter of 1914.

